

Minutes from concom meeting, 12/15/19, at Round Table Pizza at 10070 SW Barbur Blvd

Action items, or points of emphasis, are indicated by *****.

Attending in person:

John Lorenz, Ruth Sachter, Patty Wells, Rachel Robinson, Linda Pilcher, Sean Wells, Dan Reitman, Linnea Thompson (~1:10)

Attending remotely:

James Sena, Ellen Klowden (~1:10), Lee Vann (~1:15)

Meeting started at 1:07pm

Meeting restarted at 1:12pm (when Linnea arrived)

Linnea reported on the Board meeting. There is currently no treasurer. Previous candidates have strepped back. Car Bostick has offered to be a possible part-time treasurer. Please talk to others.

***** Chairs looking to fill Treasurer position.

Many positions remain open. Patty Wells pointed out we are contractually obligated, at this point, to throw a convention. We seem, however, to be discouraging rather than encouraging volunteers. Linnea repeated that Car was willing to be the "recording person" part of the treasurer, but definitely did not want to be the "chase people for receipts" person.

She announced that Kari, our storage person, has announced she's going to clean out small, <\$10 items that appear to be unused. She expects this will result in some significant space savings. If key things are accidentally discarded, the Board will pay to replace them.

Linnea observed that we have had a small-con framing for our thinking for a long time, and we need to think bigger. It is one reason why we find ourselves with the staffing problems we are having. For her part, she and Dan are trying to better define some positions in an effort to make it clear to volunteers what they are signing up for.

Creation Station is overall a boon, but it also uses up a lot of people points. We need to get our heads around ways to keep the benefits but reduce the cost. This led to a brief discussion of how Rachel wants to change programming this year, discarding experiments that failed last year and embracing things that worked last year or in previous years.

The hotel's new restaurant is open; Linnea commented that she would like to see it at some point. It is not known if the old restaurant's conversion to function space is complete, but it is suspected it is not yet.

Because of the current shortage of volunteers, the Secretary (me) may help out from time to time in various roles. None of these should be seen as taking full responsibility for any of those positions. This will not happen spontaneously, but only at the direction of the co-chairs.

Programming remarked that they need to be more proactive this year about reaching out to panelists; part of the problem, Rachel feels, was that we seemed to go silent from the standpoint of some of our panelists. Ruth mentioned that some information from last year's Smofcon might be useful.

Dan reported on our GoHs and admitted that is going slowly. There have been a couple of schedule-based declines (that is, these might be GoHs for future cons) and one conditional acceptance but the search continues.

Linnea announced she intends to review our photo policy, as it seems fairly restrictive. Rachel observed that the anime cons (i.e., Kumoricon) have some good policies.

**** Linnea to review photo policy.

John remarked that the last con had a lot of GoH's. Linnea and Dan said it is likely their con will have fewer, but there will be a minimum of 4. Dan observed that the filk guest of honor typically draws as well as or better than the other GoHs.

**** The theme of Orycon 42 is "Pun and Parody in Science Fiction"

James (fan tables) reported he is already getting requests for O42.

There was a discussion of volunteers and how to attract more. One concrete thing that came out of the discussion was a need to make a clear distinction between pre-con volunteers, at-con volunteers, and staff.

Next meeting will be on Jan 12, 1-2:30, at the 10070 SW Barbur Blvd Round Table.